



Washington State
Board of Education



Working to Raise Student Achievement Dramatically

Washington State Board of Education to Hold Community Meetings on Improving Graduation Requirements to Better Prepare Students for Life after High School

October 2007--This fall, as part of its efforts to improve requirements for high school graduation to better prepare students for life after high school, the Washington State Board of Education will hold community meetings across the state to hear the public's opinion on the topic.

During the meetings the Board will discuss how the economy of our state and prospects for high school graduates have changed since the state last reviewed high school graduation credit requirements 22 years ago; offer a conceptual framework for improving state graduation requirements; and listen to public input.

Community meetings will be held in the evening in the following locations:

- **Bremerton, October 30**
- **Bethel/Tacoma, November 5**
- **Yakima, November 27**
- **Vancouver, November 29**
- **Spokane, December 3**
- **Seattle, December 4**
- **Everett, Date to be determined**

The Board wants to hear from citizens on questions such as:

- What academic skills should students have when they graduate from high school?
- What life skills should students possess when they graduate?
- What kinds of post-high school opportunities should a K-12 education prepare students for?
- Should there be one type of diploma for all students, or multiple diploma options?
- Should high school graduation requirements necessarily align with vocational/technical, 2-year community colleges or 4-year college entry requirements?
- What should the content be for a required third credit of math?

In the near-term, input from the meetings will help the Board to define the purpose of the high school diploma and identify the content for a required third credit of math. This work will be presented to the State Legislature in December 2007.

The feedback also will be used by the Board to draft recommendations for new high school graduation requirements, which it will release to the public in spring 2008. During a second round of community meetings in spring 2008, members of the public will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft recommendations before they are finalized.

For more information, please visit www.sbe.wa.gov or call 360-725-6025.